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# Sweet Briar College

## Newsletter

1 of Sweet Briar College

Volume 56, Number 5 April 1973

### Graduation Weekend Program Announced

Sweet Briar's Class of 1973 will be graduated Sunday morning, May 20, as the largest class in the history of the college. In contrast to the first Commencement in 1910, when five seniors proudly carried off their bachelor of arts diplomas, this year's exercises will make history with 168 candidates for the degree.

President Marvin B. Perry, Jr., of Goucher College, will deliver the Commencement address. Dr. Perry was formerly a professor of English at the University of Virginia and at Washington and Lee University. He is the father of Betsy Perry, a member of the graduating class, and the husband of Ellen Gilliam Perry, a 1945 Sweet Briar graduate.

As speaker at the Baccalaureate service Saturday afternoon, May 19, the seniors chose Congressman Robert F. Drinan, of Massachusetts, who is also a Jesuit priest. His academic credentials include a master of laws degree from Georgetown University and a doctorate in theology from Gregorian University in Rome.

Seniors and their families, faculty members and other guests will meet and mingle in Sweet Briar Gardens after the Baccalaureate service, when President and Mrs. Whiteman will be hosts for the President's Garden Party.

Festivities will continue that evening at the Wailes Center, where a buffet supper will be served to seniors and parents. Later there will be dancing until midnight, with music supplied by a small band.

### French Major Wins Watson Fellowship

For the third year in succession, a Sweet Briar senior has won a Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship for a post-graduate year of travel and study. The Fellowship carries a \$6,000 stipend.

This year's Watson Fellow is Marianne Vandervort, of Deerfield, Ill., whose projected investigation in linguistics will take her to France early in September. She studied there last year, under the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France program.

*May 1972 . . . the past is prologue*



photo by Kathy Kavanagh '74

Marianne is one of 71 Watson Fellows named this year from 140 candidates nominated by the 35 colleges and universities that were invited to participate by the Watson Foundation.

As outlined by Marianne, her proposal is to examine the linguistic difficulties of French school children in learning American-English, and the teaching methods used that may help or hinder that learning process. When asked what prompted her interest in this study, she explained that she learned last year that the French consider American to be a separate language.

Although her study will be largely independent, Marianne plans to have some connection with the *Institut Phonétique* in Paris. She also expects to visit school classrooms and language laboratories in several French cities, such as Tours, Paris, Bordeaux,

Marseilles, and Strasbourg, to obtain a variety of regional accents.

By making and studying tapes of students at various stages of progress in language studies, she hopes to learn "what transfers most easily from one language to the other and what does not, and at what stages certain problems are overcome." Her aim is to determine, if possible, what areas of language study need to be emphasized, and at what stages, and perhaps to suggest some ways or techniques to aid this process.

Marianne has been a student of languages ever since she was in seventh grade. Before coming to college she had five years of Latin and a year of Greek, as well as three years of French. At Sweet Briar she continued her studies in French and took two years of Spanish and one of Italian.

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## Watson Fellowship

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She is interested in becoming a teacher of English as a foreign language or teaching French at the high school or college level. More remote is the possibility of contributing to a basic French-American language textbook.



Photo by Peggy Bender '73

Marianne has won many academic honors at Sweet Briar, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa last October. She has also won Junior Honors, she was on the Freshman Honor List three years ago, and she has been on the Dean's List consistently. She is a graduate of New Trier High School East, in Winnetka, Ill.

## New Chaplain Coming in Fall

The Rev. Frederick T. Schumacher, pastor of the First Church in Oberlin, Ohio, since 1963, has been appointed college chaplain and lecturer in religion, beginning in September. Experienced as both teacher and pastor, he also served in the chaplaincy at Vassar College.

Mr. Schumacher was graduated summa cum laude from Elmhurst College, where he majored in philosophy; earned a bachelor of divinity, cum laude, at Union Theological Seminary, New York; and studied further at the Seminary and at the University of Basel, Switzerland, before his ordination as a minister of the United Church of Christ, South Indiana Synod, in 1950.

He held a fellowship from the American Society for Friendship with Switzerland, he was a Kent Fellow of the National Council on Religion in Higher Education, and he was a Danforth Teacher for a year at Union Seminary. He also taught religion for two years at Columbia University and at Vassar College for 10 years.

During the summer of 1970 Mr. Schumacher participated as a volun-

teer at an archeological dig at Tell-el-Hesi, Israel, which was sponsored by the American Schools of Oriental Research and a consortium of American colleges.

Currently serving as a board member and treasurer of the Ohio Board for United Ministries in Higher Education, a statewide ecumenical body which funds and oversees campus ministries, Mr. Schumacher is also a member of the United Church of Christ Commission on Higher Education in Ohio and of the Church's task force on Women in Church and Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher are the parents of five sons, ranging in age from 23 to twins who are 14.

## Student Honors

**DEAN'S LIST, Seniors:** Barbara Baker; Charlotte Battle; Gypsy Bear; Mary Berry; Louise Blakeslee; Anne Boatwright; Debra Bogdan; Chloe Briscoe; Dorothea Buck; Katherine Cann; Monica Cash; Patricia Cesak; Margaret Cheesewright; Virginia Conley; Noreen Conover; Deirdre Couchman; Roberta Culbertson; Sarah Dalton; Mary Danford; Susan Dern; Rachel Fitzgerald; Lisa Fowler; Christine Johnson; Saralinda Jones; Margaret Jordan; Jane Knutson; Helen Lane; Jane McCutchen; Deborah McDowell; Anita McVey; Laura Montague; Elisabeth Montgomery; Linda Moscato; Helen Oakley; Jean Platt; Deborah Pollock; Nancy Richards; Ruth Rowan; Champe Smith; Ellen Stelling; Alice Stewart; Kathryn Thilking; Louise Towers; Marianne Vandervort; Lacy Williams; Melinda Williams; Patricia Wood; Hazel Wright.

**Juniors:** Patricia Barnett; Jonita Carder; Margaret Christian; Nancy Crumpler; Pamela Hughes; Karin Lawson; Teresa Lear; Eugenia Manning; Tana Meier; Margaret Myers; Ilona Petrovits; Phyllis Ray; Susan Rhymmer; Jana Sawicki; Anya Starosolsky; Mary Witt.

**Sophomores:** Joanna Arias; Jeannette Block; Elizabeth Brooks; Sarah Clement; Lisa Hall; Ella Hanson; Helen Harrison; Helen Hodges; Somurai Jiaravanont; Mary Kessler; Karin Lindgren; Charlotte Martin; Ann Mason; Lynn Norris; Deyanne Passarello; Carol Porter; Polly Shriver; Anne Stokes; May Waters; Susan West; Linda Wheeler.

**FRESHMAN HONOR LIST:** Karen Adelson; Nursat Aygen; Caroline Bickel; Sandra Brumow; Catherine Catlett; Claire Chingos; Mary Costello; Terese DeGrandi; Nancy Dennis; Hilda Dent; Susan Elzinga; Leslie Fisher; Linda Friedman; Dianne Horn; Susan Hungerpiller; Colleen Jones; Norris Judd; Julia Knight; Ann Lee; Mary Lewis; Cheryl Lux; Kathleen McCall; Marilyn McClelland; Katherine Mikell; Adele Neal; Jill Ohmsted; Mary Porter; Cornelia Radford; Louise Sharp; Nancy Simonds; Linda Smith; Hilary Speare; Ann Stryker; Marsha Taylor; Marion Thomas; Susan Verbridge; Jill Wentorf; Anne White; Mary Woodford.

**PHI BETA KAPPA,** elected in February.  
**Seniors:** Dorothea Buck; Susan Dern; Margaret Jordan; Linda Moscato; Pamela Rasche; Nancy Richards; Champe Smith; Kathryn Thilking; Louise Towers; Kathleen Williams; Melinda Williams. **Junior:** Mary Witt.

## Biron and Cooper To Head Paris Staff

Archille H. Biron, of Colby College, has been appointed Professor-in-charge of the 1973-74 Junior Year in France, a post he has held twice before, and Mme. Marthe B. Cooper will serve as assistant for another year.

Prof. Biron headed the Paris staff in 1971-72 and 1964-65. He is a graduate of Clark University and Middlebury College, with a diploma from the *Institut Phonétique* in Paris. He studied in Spain, Portugal and France under a Ford Foundation Summer Travel Grant in 1970.

Mme. Cooper, a native of France, is a graduate of the University of Rennes, with a B.A. from Connecticut College and M.A. from Cornell, with additional study at the Sorbonne in Paris, at Edinburgh, and at Columbia. She has taught at Elmira, Connecticut, Russell Sage, and Douglass colleges.

This year 107 men and women from 47 American institutions are enrolled in the Sweet Briar program, which has been administered by the college since 1948.



The Daily Advance

Dr. John R. Shannon, associate professor of music and organist, gave his first harpsichord recital shortly after returning from a sabbatical leave which he spent at the Oberlin Conservatory, preparatory to teaching harpsichord at Sweet Briar this term. A versatile craftsman, he also built the instrument which he played.

A feather in the cap of the Sweet Briar Singers, 45-voice chorus directed by Professor Shannon, is the invitation to sing at the Southern District Convention of the Music Educators National Conference, in Norfolk, May 3-5. Their program of sacred music will consist of nine numbers.

## Class of '72 Reports Jobs and Studies

Whether they are beginning their careers in a variety of occupations or studying in graduate schools, Sweet Briar's 1972 graduates are demonstrating what can be accomplished with a liberal arts education. Members of the class who reported on their activities are representative of today's young women who are finding a place in what is becoming less "a man's world."

With the advice to "set your sights high" and "never be afraid to apply for a man's job," one graduate reports that she is the only woman professional in her office. The former Stephanie Harmon, who spent her junior year in France, she is now Mme. Baudin Simonard of Paris. Employed first as a translator for a firm of business consultants, she was soon promoted to the position of tax specialist.

Three graduates now studying in medical schools are Elizabeth H. Smith, at the University of Virginia; and Katherine and Virginia Upchurch, at Duke and Johns Hopkins.

At 15 other leading universities in this country and in Vienna, Austria, 22 members of the class were accepted for graduate work. Their studies cover a wide range of disciplines: modern languages, English, history, museum work, dance, government and politics, religion, music, biochemistry, and the history and philosophy of science. While most of these look forward to teaching at the college level, several are training for such fields as pharmacology, scientific research, and library service.

Armed with their B.A. degrees, 54 members of the 1972 class are holding jobs in 15 different categories of work in the business, professional and academic worlds. They are research assistants, bank tellers, sales clerks, accountants, administrative assistants, secretaries and receptionists.

Starting in jobs which may offer interesting futures, several graduates are employed in New York. An art history major is working at the South Street Seaport Museum, and a Spanish major is working at Time, Inc., while continuing her studies at New York University in Latin-American politics. Recognizing her clerical job at a publishing house as an entering wedge, an English major hopes to do editorial work before long.

Washington is a mecca for young women in search of work after college, and many Sweet Briar alumnae are employed there. Members of the 1972 class report the following positions: technician at the Securities and Ex-

change Commission; receptionist at a personnel agency; customer engineer at IBM; research assistant for the Senate Public Works Committee; and financial assistant, Federal Home Loan Bank.

Cecilia Albert, who majored in mathematics, entered the Air Force for basic training last summer. Now a lieutenant, she is a computer programmer at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado. A government major has found her preparation useful in her work as a legal assistant in a large law firm in Houston.

As a salaried trainee at a life insurance company in New York, Lin Modica plans to study insurance law at night, with tuition paid by the company. She found her position through an employment agency. Martha Ann Neill, who is a research analyst at the Center for Comprehensive Health Planning in Charlottesville, said her job "practically fell in my lap." "Keep an open mind," she added, "I had narrowed my efforts to a particular field and was unsuccessful. Doing research for a government-funded project couldn't have been further from my mind."

Other advice from the 1972 class to undergraduates were suggestions to acquire stenographic skills, gain experience in summer jobs, study the job market before graduation.

Cindy Heye, however, had a different attitude. "Don't worry about a permanent job while you are still studying. Enjoy college," she wrote. After a one-day assignment at the Harvard Community Health Center, Cindy was retained as assistant to the director which she calls "an exciting job in a rapidly growing field."

Although one graduate remarked that "the job you get will be determined more by luck than by your efforts," another probably had a better answer to why students from a liberal arts college are hired in spite of their lack of specialized training.

"Not any courses I took but my education as a whole has been helpful in giving me a varied background," she said. "Employers seem to be looking for very broad backgrounds, rather than specialized ones."

## Seven Colleges Pooling Job Interview Schedules

Sweet Briar and six other area colleges are pooling their placement interview schedules to provide seniors with more potential job opportunities and employers with a greatly enlarged interview group.

The joint program includes Hollins, Randolph-Macon Woman's, Lynchburg, and Roanoke colleges, Virginia

Military Institute, and Washington & Lee University. Students at all seven colleges will be invited to schedule appointments with firms which conduct interviews at any one institution.



Lynchburg News

For the second successive year, Randy Anderson, a sophomore, won the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Giant Slalom Ski Championship (women's) at the Homestead. She retired the cup for Sweet Briar, which gained the first leg in 1969, when Jenny Williams won the first intercollegiate race. Two others from Richmond, seniors Jane Potts and Lacy Williams, were the only women among five who passed the rigorous tests for membership in the National Ski Patrol at Bryce Mountain, Virginia, where they spent the Winter term training for this competition. They also received the Presidential Sports Award for Alpine Skiing.

## American Students Named Teaching-Aides in Paris

Ruth Willingham is one of 10 students in the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France program who are assisting teachers of English in Paris secondary schools. The purpose of this instruction is to enable French pupils to hear and learn American as well as British English.

Applicants were interviewed and selected by French education officials. They teach from two to eight hours per week, entirely on a voluntary basis. In addition to the contact with younger French students, they are observing French teaching methods and school life.

Dr. Clare R. Smith, assistant professor of English, has received a \$2000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She will spend the summer in England, doing research in mediaeval literature, especially on the role of Sir Gawain in Middle English chronicle and romance.

## Campus Notes

Sweet Briar College, Seven Decades won a second-place certificate among the annual awards made by the Printing Industry of the Virginias. The illustrated condensed history of the college, 1901-1971, was printed by Whitet & Shepperson, Richmond, last year.

Sylvia Wilkinson, Sue Reid Slaughter Visiting Lecturer in English at Sweet Briar this term, spoke on "Creativity from Books, Libraries, and Personal Experience" at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library early in April. The young author of three successful novels is conducting the Writer's Workshop where she has attracted a large following among budding writers. An expert on sports car racing, she won the 1972 Sports Car magazine feature story award. Her first book about this sport, *The Stainless Steel Carrot*, is to be published next fall.

"The Human Qualities of George Washington and Robert E. Lee" was the topic of this year's Phi Beta Kappa address on March 22 by Virginius Dabney, distinguished former editor of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and author of several books

on southern history. One junior and 19 seniors were initiated into Sweet Briar's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and were honor guests with their parents at the chapter dinner preceding the Dabney address.

Two members of the art department, Loren Oliver and Raymond L. Twiddy, were represented in the Biennial I Regional Exhibition at the Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, this spring. Another entry was by Mary Jane Oliver, wife of Professor Oliver and a graduate of Sweet Briar. The exhibition, which included 117 works selected from 568 entries, was judged by Grace Hartigan, one of the country's outstanding women artists.

Mr. Oliver is also represented in the Davidson National Graphics Exhibition at Davidson College, March 25-April 29. His wash drawing, "Looking Glass," was among 210 works chosen from 3,420 entries from 50 states. Art critic David Greenberg, juror for the exhibit, termed it "America's outstanding drawing show."

Summer research grants available from several sources will enable 10 faculty members to pursue studies in various fields of interest this year.

Ford grants have been awarded to Dr. Joan Kent (history) to continue research in England; Dr. Maria Embeita (Spanish) to complete a literary study in Madrid; Dr. Ferdinando Alfonsi (Italian) to further his work on a bibliography of Italian novelist Moravia.

Mellon Foundation grants in the Humanities will take Dr. Louis Kibler (modern languages) to Italy to complete research for a book on Moravia; and Dr. John Shannon (music) to various libraries to continue research on a manual of 17th-century organ literature.

Grants from the Cabell Faculty Enrichment Fund have been awarded to: Allen Huszti (music), to attend a two-week International Music Seminar in Germany; Mary F. Maddox (English) to finish her Ph.D. dissertation for presentation at Yale; Ralph Woehle (sociology), similar work for Ph.D. thesis at the University of Virginia.

In addition to these, Dr. Gregory Armstrong (religion) has a research grant for continuing study of Constantine churches and Dr. Ernest Edwards (biology) has received aid to take a course in tundra ecology at Camp Denali in Alaska.

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